

persons who held these offices excluded the great lords not only from the ordinary administration, but from most of the patronage of the country, and it was for the purpose of securing these offices for their own adherents that a coterie of lords made use of Parliament in 1371. As Lancaster was in France, the Earl of Pembroke, a young nobleman of twenty-three, led the opposition in the Upper Chamber.¹

The House of Commons that met in 1871 was no less hostile to the bishop ministers, though for different and less personal reasons. In the first place, it was rightly considered that the opening of hostilities had been mismanaged, that there had been no counterbalancing success in the last two years, and that the Bishops had not the knowledge and energy requisite for the successful conduct of a war. They were in fact regarded much as Lord Aberdeen's Ministry was regarded in 1855. Their unpopularity was increased by the dislike of the Church and its privileges and consequent distrust of all its members, deeply rooted in the lay mind. This feeling found expression in the request presented by Lords- and Commons together to the King, demanding the total exclusion of all clergy from the civil service. This would have indeed been a sweeping reform, for at that time most * clerks ' were * clergy.* The King rejected the petition, as he did not feel called upon to remodel the whole public service in its lower as well as its higher branches. But since the dislike of the present clerical ministry to which this demand had given voice could not be completely ignored, the Bishops holding the higher offices were removed, and were succeeded in their posts by law officers of the crown and laymen distinguished for public service. Some at least of these new ministers were honest and capable men, destined to win the admiration even of the bitterest partisans of the Church party.² But they had no independent prestige and position of their own on which to withstand the malpractices that the great nobles soon introduced into the public service. They were but the nominees of those lords who had plotted the overthrow of the Bishops.' The House of Commons, carried away by just resentment at the misconduct of the war by the episcopal ministry, had en*

., L 314. * *Ibid.* ii. 68, on Scrope. * 8ao Ap.